

From: Daniel Aharon
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 11:19am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hi,

I'm offering my comment that the proposed settlement in the Microsoft v DOJ and States case is not sufficient to help consumers, the IT industry, or the US economy in general. Microsoft should be properly penalized for breaking the law and causing so much damage to the working and personal lives of so many people. Here at the University of Pennsylvania, I observe clear and striking examples everyday of how my coworkers lives are made worse by being forced to use Microsoft Windows and Office every day to accomplish their tasks. The concept that the "Operating System war is over" is truly frightening to the IT sector. Can we condemn ourselves to a future run solely by Microsoft software, and hold ourselves in economic hostage to them?

I recommend that Microsoft be required to immediately cease and desist the development and production of all current and future versions of Windows, be forced to put the source code for Microsoft Office into the public domain, and liquidate, delivering all 36+ billion of its cash and assets to a fund used to provide as many former users of Windows as possible with new computers running a non-Windows operating system, such as Mac OS or Linux.

Whatever decision you make, please don't allow Microsoft to escape virtually unpunished and stronger than ever, which is what the current settlement would ensure.

Thanks,
Dan

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